

## **Darin Prescott, MSN, MBA, RN** **Follow-Up Questions**

**Question:** What is recommended in turning on the blower device intraoperatively; before or after draping?

**Answer:** I reviewed the package insert and did not find an answer. According to Arizant, there is not a specific recommendation. However, that specific practice has not been studied. I'm unaware of any papers suggesting adverse consequences associated with the specific times of activation of the Bair Hugger system.

Concerning the question about infection, have you seen the latest FAW paper by Sessler and colleagues? (1) One of the main observations by this group was a nearly 5-log reduction in particulates in a standard laminar airflow operating room. This finding strongly suggests that FAW is a very unlikely cause of surgical site infection in laminar airflow. There are many other papers from investigators such as Moretti and colleagues (5), and Memarzadeh (2-4) that provide compelling clinical and analytical evidence against the notion that FAW is a likely source of infection in the operating room.

I believe that most of these studies are available on-line.

1. Sessler DI, Olmsted RN, Kuelpmann R. Forced-Air Warming Does Not Worsen Air Quality in Laminar Flow Operating Rooms. *Anesth Analg*. Sep 29 2011.
2. Memarzadeh F, Manning A. Comparison of operating room ventilation systems in the protection of the surgical site. *ASHRAE Transactions*. 2002;108(2):3-15.
3. Memarzadeh F, Jiang Z. Effect of operation room geometry and ventilation system parameter variations on the protection of the Surgical Site 2004.
4. Memarzadeh F, Manning AP. Reducing nosocomial infections in ORs. *Infection Control Today*. 2003.
5. Moretti B, Larocca AM, Napoli C, et al. Active warming systems to maintain perioperative normothermia in hip replacement surgery: a therapeutic aid or a vector of infection? *J. Hosp. Infect.* Sep 2009;73(1):58-63.

**Question:** How can I justify the cost of the FAW gown to my leadership team?

**Answer:** The cost can be justified (in real cost) in your cotton blanket savings. You should be able to reduce down to 1 blanket depending on your practice. Cost of Gown compared with the # of cotton bath blankets used. Your laundry department or service will have the data around each washing costs as well the life of a typical bath blanket. Further justification can be made with regard to reimbursement based on meeting SCIP requirements, reduced infection rates, patient satisfaction, and blood administration.

**Question:** Who is our rep for Arizant?

**Answer:** Tonya Priestley is the rep and she can be reached at her new 3M email address and phone:

### **Tonya L. Priestley**

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